

their lives in order to protect freedom and democracy around the world. As we recently observed the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War and over 11 years of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, we must remember all those who have fallen in service to our great country. Our nation owes them, as well as the millions of brave servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve, an eternal debt of gratitude. Their service will not be forgotten.

HONORING DEBBIE ZELMAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Zelman, a truly inspiring woman from South Florida. Five years ago, Ms. Zelman was a successful attorney, wife, and mother, when she heard those life shattering words that she was diagnosed with Stage IV stomach cancer. The doctor gave her only a 50/50 chance to live after one year and only a four percent chance to live after five years. It's been four years now, and I am proud to say Debbie is with us today, beating the odds every day.

Debbie is not alone in her struggle against stomach cancer. This terrible disease is the most common form of cancer in the world. Every year in America, 21,000 Americans are diagnosed with stomach cancer, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in this country.

After receiving her diagnosis, Debbie was frustrated to find little information on her disease and fewer options for treatment and support. Fortunately, she persevered and got treatment. Today, she is not only a cancer survivor, she is an advocate.

In 2009, she founded Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer, which provides a voice for the victims of this under-recognized and under-funded disease. Initially working in South Florida, Debbie's Dream has grown into a national organization that provides support and awareness for patients and their families. During their 4th Annual Night of Laughter, Debbie's Dream raised \$21,000 for stomach cancer research.

In honor of her inspiring fight against cancer and her tireless advocacy, I am pleased to recognize Debbie Zelman and wish her continued success in this important endeavor.

RECOGNIZING MS. SHIRLEY ISON-NEWSOME

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shirley Ison-Newsome, the departing Assistant Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. Ms. Ison-Newsome will retire after 37 years of dedicated service.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has a long history as an educator and administrator within the Dallas ISD. She first began her work with the Dallas ISD during the 1970s, helping to lead further

efforts to desegregate schools. Ms. Ison-Newsome's role within the Dallas ISD evolved quickly, as she assumed the role of principal of the Harry Stone Middle School, and then later as Area 2 Superintendent.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has contributed substantially to building Dallas ISD's academic program. She has frequently been recognized by her colleagues and outside organizations for her extensive work in education.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Ison-Newsome for devoting much of her life to the students of the Dallas ISD. I wish Ms. Ison-Newsome well in her retirement and her future endeavors. Public education is absolutely critical for our future generations, and having devoted educators as part of the public education system is an asset for the sound development of our youth.

HONORING FAITH ORAKWUE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Faith Orakwue is a senior at Lamar Consolidated High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

What role should the government play in our lives? This is an issue that I have often mulled over during my years as a young adult, and, at different times, I offer varying answers regarding this particular issue.

The American government was an institution created by the people and for the people, so it seems logical that the people should maintain ultimate control over the government, right? However, the Articles of Confederation helped to disprove this theory quite a bit—without the strong backing of a central government (ultimately acting as a backbone), the states acted according to their whim and the nation was weak and in ultimate disarray. The Constitution later came in and created a stronger central government, which helped to establish a more cohesive structure to the nation.

The point I am trying to make is that government should be resilient and diligently involved in the welfare of its people in order to create a nation that works to promote the well-being of all of its people. In order to do this, the government has to be involved, and that means being present in all issues, even personal and moral ones. The thing is, once a person is sworn into a public office, they are there to promote the well-being and advancement of the American people. In order to do this, government has to temporarily put aside their own views and beliefs and truly work towards the choice that is best for the American people. For example, had Lyndon B. Johnson listened to other Southern governors who despised African Ameri-

cans and allowed their thinking to cloud his judgment, African Americans may not have received their rights until much later in history, because, at that time, integration was not a favorable idea/belief. Or, if the government had not ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, women would not have total control over their bodies. And, although I may not necessarily agree with abortion, it is definitely not in my place to dictate whether a woman should have a baby or not, and it is not in the government's place to tell the American people they cannot do something (that does not hurt others) simply because it goes against their moral beliefs.

The United States is an amalgamation of different cultures, viewpoints, and ideas that works to create the nation we call America. And, in order to preserve that order and openness that we are famous for, the government has to be both strong and involved in the issues that concern us. However, in order to be truly effective, a country's government has to be both strong and unbiased, an institution truly working for the betterment of its people.

THE CLAIMS LICENSING ADVANCEMENT FOR INTERSTATE MATTERS ACT (CLAIM) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Claims Licensing Advancement for Interstate Matters Act, known as the CLAIM Act to help consumers save millions of dollars in insurance costs and create more jobs.

Under current law, independent claims adjusters face a hodgepodge of inconsistent state regulations that only serve to delay the prompt adjustment of claims for natural disasters, car accident victims, and other tragedies in life. Independent claims adjusters must take a license examination in each state in which they work. This requires adjusters to take time off from their job and travel to each state in which they seek a license. This is a costly burden on the claims adjusters, the companies that employ them, and ultimately, the consumer. Sadly, it is the consumer who currently pays for these costs in higher premiums.

Today, it is my pleasure to re-introduce a bill that would end this costly burden. The CLAIM Act would lead to a process that would provide independent claims adjusters licensing reciprocity so their home-state license is valid in any other state.

The CLAIM Act would also provide specific relief during a natural disaster. In areas designated by the President of the United States as a "Disaster Area," independent claims adjusters who meet certain criteria would be eligible to adjust claims for losses notwithstanding the state where the adjuster is licensed.

To be clear, the CLAIM Act does not create a new federal law and does not "federalize" the insurance industry. The CLAIM Act respects states' rights to continue to regulate insurance. Rather, the CLAIM Act would urge the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to adopt a model licensing standard for state regulation for independent claims adjusters that each individual state would adopt. The CLAIM Act would make sure that